

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Peru

SUBJECT Government-Sponsored Mass Meeting
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The following report furnishes background information on the mass demonstration sponsored by the Odría government in Peru, which was held on 8 March and which was intended to supply proof of popular support of the government and its stand in refusing a safe-conduct for Haya de la Torre.

1. In spite of the government's efforts to drum up popular enthusiasm, the group of a thousand people who marched up the Jiron de la Union with banners to the Plaza is believed to have been entirely composed of those persons brought in from the outlying districts of Lima through the efforts of the Ministry of Government. These individuals were strategically stationed directly under the speaker's balcony in the forefront of the crowd and provided the apparently vociferous cheering that was broadcast over the air. Government employees had been released from their offices with strong "suggestions" that they attend the demonstration, but it is believed that many braved the threats of punishment and stayed away.
2. Although between five and ten thousand persons were present on the Plaza de Armas, an estimated three quarters of that number were curious spectators or were silently hostile. Some fifty persons were arrested during the manifestation for booing and whistling, and for waving a white handkerchief in the traditional Aprista salute, although no organized Aprista activity was observed. None was planned, [REDACTED]

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